

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Docket No. 2015-06

**Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC
and Public Service Company of New Hampshire
d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility**

**SUPPLEMENTAL PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MARGARET CONNORS ON
BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF SUGAR HILL**

April 17, 2017

1 **Supplemental Testimony**

2 **Q. At the technical session, Counsel for the Public referred to the maps that**
3 **showed the proposed drilling sites through Sugar Hill and asked you about the effect that**
4 **road closures or lane closures would have. Would you like to clarify your response to that**
5 **question?**

6 A. Route 18 is very important. It is the route to the high school, to Streeter Pond
7 Road (which is how people travel to Lisbon for work), to Bethlehem, and to businesses on that
8 road. First responders would definitely have issues with road closures. It is one of the more
9 heavily traveled roads in town. The high school is in Bethlehem, and the elementary school is in
10 Franconia, both right off Rt. 18.

11 Route 18 is narrow and that the plan is to install cable along the side of the road. It would
12 involve backhoes, dump trucks, and other large equipment. It would likely result in lane closures
13 along the road as construction moves down Route 18. This would affect school traffic (in the
14 morning and early afternoons). Also in summer, there is a farm business on Streeter Pond Road,
15 a greenhouse and a kennel that would be significantly impacted. These are small businesses that
16 depend on passing traffic. We have a lot of tourism in the summer and during foliage season in
17 the fall. Tourist travel, especially during those times, would be significantly impacted. The
18 construction seems likely to actually be in the road, rather than just along the side, given the
19 narrowness.

20 Looking at HDD-11 on map 36, there would be 790 feet between entry and exit pits, and the pits
21 themselves would be about 27 feet wide and vary in length (223 feet to 330 feet). If the road had

1 to be closed for maybe 2 weeks there, the impact would be a nightmare. It is a major
2 thoroughfare.

3 Map 35 notes that town line with Bethlehem is just to the left of HDD-10. If the road was closed
4 at HDD-10 for 1 or 2 weeks, Sugar Hill students would have to take I-93 or Old Franconia Road
5 to Glessner Road get to the high school. Also, White Mountain School, a private high school
6 with about 200 students, is on Glessner Road. It is used year-round and has a dance school.
7 Profile Regional School serves Easton, Franconia, Sugar Hill and Bethlehem, about 325 kids and
8 transportation to and from the school would be difficult.

9 On Map 36, if the road were closed at HDD-12, the detours would be significant. Drivers could
10 use Route 117, but it would be very long and would come around again on Route 16. I-93 may
11 be difficult because the interchange only goes in one direction there.

12 **Q. Did Robert Varney of Normandeau Associates, on behalf of Northern Pass**
13 **Transmission LLC or Eversource, ever visit your town planning board, select board, or**
14 **conservation commission in connection with this project, for the purpose of discussing**
15 **whether the Project would be consistent with local land use ordinances and/or the master**
16 **plan?**

17 A. No. He did not meet with the Town of Sugar Hill.

18 **Q. Does this end your testimony?**

19 A. Yes.